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U.S. SENATOR *for* COLORADO

Farmers' Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2023

U.S. Senators Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), and Peter Welch (D-Vt.)
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Fresh and local produce from farmers markets supports a healthy food source for those most in need of healthy foods, especially seniors, families, and young children. However, funding for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) has fallen since 2008.

The Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act supports local farmers and their bottom line and increases access to affordable, nutritious, and healthy food options. This legislation makes available loans and grants for new farmers markets to be built and current ones to be updated. It also creates a pilot program to incent food banks to contract with local farmers – protecting food banks from supply chain issues and further solidify local community ties.

The Farmers Market and Food Bank Revitalization Act:

- Increases funding for the Seniors and for the Women, Infants, and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs (SFMNP and WIC FMNP) by \$230 million over the next five years to support the elderly and support food insecure families;
- Increases the minimum individual benefit for SFMNP recipients to \$35 and removes the maximum benefit, and increases program eligibility to families whose household incomes are within 200% of the Federal poverty guideline;
- Increases the minimum individual benefit for the WIC FMNP to \$35 and increases the maximum benefit to \$60 through 2028;
- Provides \$50 million in funding assistance through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) each year through Fiscal Year 2029 for the expansion, construction, and updating of farmers markets in rural, suburban, and urban food desert areas; and
- Increases local food production through partnership with food banks by making \$7.5 million available in each of the next two years to support local farmer contracting.

The **Farmers Market and Food Bank Local Revitalization Act of 2023** is a win-win for local producers and consumers.